



Resource Report

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October 2003

Camping at the Harley 100th

by Sarah Pyzik, Environmental Health Sanitarian

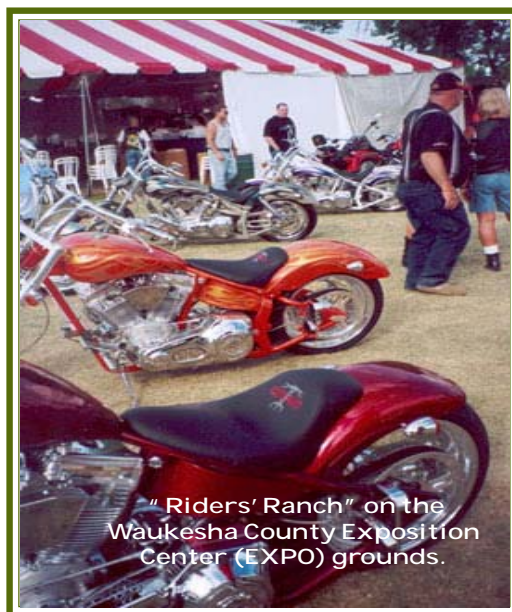
The 100th Anniversary celebration of the Harley-Davidson Company touched the whole of southeastern Wisconsin. Although Waukesha County didn't have the multitude of festivities that occurred in Milwaukee, there was still quite a bit going on given the massive influx of motorcycles, riders and all their paraphernalia. In addition to the parties going on at the Harley dealerships in the area and manufacturing plants in Menomonee Falls and Oconomowoc, there were community festivals and temporary campgrounds set up just for the occasion. The goal of the Environmental Health Division was to ensure that our guests had safe, healthy accommodations.

The Division became involved in the camping planning in March when we sent a letter to all County municipalities reminding those interested in hosting "special event campgrounds" that they would need to seek zoning approval and obtain a license. Initially, many parties were interested but only two received enough bookings to open their gates. These two had hosted campgrounds for the 95th Harley-Davidson Reunion in 1998. The

smaller one was in Muskego. About 100 campers stayed in tents in the spacious park-like atmosphere. The larger was called "Riders' Ranch"

on the Waukesha County Exposition Center (EXPO) grounds. The LA Group, a landscape, architecture, and engineering company in NY rented it out as they had for the 1998 reunion.

Much planning went into the logistics of accommodating the expected



"Riders' Ranch" on the Waukesha County Exposition Center (EXPO) grounds.

large turn out at Riders' Ranch. At final count about 7500 stayed at the special event campground. The EXPO grounds were divided into several tent and RV groupings 100 additional toilets and one hand wash station per grouping were brought in to supplement the existing facilities. In an effort to anticipate the campers' every need community groups and vendors set up shop on the grounds. The Humane Society offered a bike wash. There was a bike repair shop and a grocery store. There were helicopter rides, a music stage, an Internet café, the famous "Broken Spoke Saloon" and a Reunion Spa. The dairy barn even became a go-go club. In addition, there were retail shops, tattoo parlors, food vendors (including 24-hour food service) and laundry and shower facilities. It was as though a mini-city had sprung up overnight on the county grounds. Close to 12,000 people visited the Ranch per day.

The most notable problems at Riders' Ranch proved to be the volume of trash and flies pestering the food service operators. All in all things went very smoothly. As evidence of the spirit of hospitality and good humor that pervaded the event, the Division has yet to receive a complaint about bikers participating in the Harley 100th Anniversary celebration. 🍁



The 100th Anniversary celebration of the Harley-Davidson Company


Recent Change In Septic Code Affects Basement Construction

by Michelle Staff
Senior Land Use Specialist

On January 1, 2003, the Waukesha County Sanitation Code was changed, as mandated by the State of Wisconsin, to allow the placement of septic systems on lands with high ground water. The new type of septic system used in these areas is commonly known as an A+4 mound system. With the approval of these new septic systems, many parcels that

were previously unbuildable, due to high ground water levels, are now able to be developed. As more and more lots with high ground water levels are being developed, increased problems with basement construction are occurring. Many zoning ordinances, including both the Waukesha County Zoning Code and the Waukesha County Shoreland and Floodland Protection Ordinance, do not allow basements to be located in soils with an observed or estimated high ground water table (determined by the presence of severe mottling in the soil profile). Over the past year, the Planning and Zoning Division staff has seen many new homes constructed on lots with high ground water that have been required to raise the elevation of their basement floor in order to clear the highest anticipated ground water level. In some cases, basements are being located as much as 6 feet above the natural grade. This requires extensive filling, which alters

drainage patterns. When such extensive filling is proposed, the Planning and Zoning Division staff has been requiring detailed grading and drainage plans, prepared by a registered landscape architect, surveyor, or professional engineer. In some cases, it has been necessary to require individually engineered basement plans, prepared by a licensed professional engineer specializing in soils engineering. In addition, both County zoning ordinances have filling and grading requirements that may require separate grading permits for the extensive filling needed to construct on these lots. Anyone developing a lot that requires an A+4 mound system is encouraged to contact the Planning and Zoning Division staff at (262) 548-7790 for advice on grading and filling requirements.

The Planning and Zoning Division will re-examine soil suitability development standards as part of the update to the comprehensive development plan for Waukesha County. 

Fall + Winter = Fun in Waukesha County Parks

by Ginny Clement, Parks Program Coordinator

Days may be growing shorter and cool weather may be moving in, but that doesn't mean you have to hibernate. This is a great time of year to visit all the Waukesha County Parks. See the fall colors by hiking through the wooded wonderland. Listen for the birds singing and leaves crackling under your feet. Choose from the many different trails throughout the eight parks.

Don't forget all the fun activities to enjoy once the snow flies! You'll be able to hit the x-country ski trails at six of the County Parks, sledding hills and snowshoe trails. Snow? What about walking? Not to worry, we have paved trails that are cleared during the winter months, so you can walk your Christmas shopping stress away.



Park hours are sunrise to 10 p.m. and fall fees are \$2.25 per car until November 16, 2003.

Join us for these upcoming events:

Spooka Minooka

Friday - October 24th from 5:30 to 9 p.m. Minooka Park, 1927 E. Sunset Dr. This Halloween event is geared for 6 to 12 year olds. \$20 per carload includes Haunted Barn, Haunted Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides, crafts and cookie decorating. Outdoor event, please dress for the weather and come rain or shine.

New Year's Eve at Eble Ice Arena

Call (262) 784-7512 for more information

Citizen's Cross Country Ski Race

Saturday - January 3rd starting at 10:30 a.m.

Nashotah Park, W330 N5113 CTH C. \$7.00 per person and \$14.00 per family. The whole family can participate on race day with a 5 KM and 10 KM route, as well as an under 2 mile route for ages 10 and under.



Candlelight Ski / Hike / Snowshoe

No matter what the weather, you can experience the trails by the glow of candlelight. Enjoy the 1 mile trail on foot, skis or snowshoes. The event is held with or without snow. After hiking warm up by the campfire with hot chocolate, hot apple cider, marshmallows and more.

Friday - January 23, 2004 \$2.25/car Muskego Park, S83 W20370 Janesville Rd.

Friday - February 13, 2004 \$2.25/car Menomonee Park, W220 N7884 Townline Rd.

Waukesha JanBoree Events Eble Park Ice Arena

Saturday - January 17, 2004

Indoor Ice Skating

1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Free open skate for the entire family. Limited skate rental.

Minooka Park - Sunday - January 18, 2004

Ice Fishing Clinic 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. This clinic will teach kids lifetime fishing skills and ethics. Equipment and prizes provided.

Horse-Drawn Wagon Rides - Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Barnelopet Children's X-Country Ski Race - 1:30 p.m. Children of all ages can slide and glide on a 1 KM or 2 KM groomed course.

Retzer Nature Center - Sunday - January 18, 2004

10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Hiking, snowshoeing (provided), face painting

10:00 a.m. & 1:00 p.m. - Bird Feeding Program

Noon & 2:30 p.m. - Tracking Program

12:30 p.m. & 3:00 p.m. - Slide Show

Naga-Waukee Park Ice Arena

Sunday - January 18, 2004

Indoor Ice Skating

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Free open skate for the family. Limited skate rental. 



RETZER NATURE CENTER PROGRAMSLog onto www.waukeshacountyparks.com

for detailed information call 262-896-8007

November 12 & 15	Forest Ecology Adult Workshop
November 19	Nature Sprouts (Storytime)
November 22	Basket Workshop Adult Activity
December 6	Retzer's Rangers "Geology – Rocks"
December 17	Nature Sprouts (Storytime)
December 27 & 28	Snowshoe Lacing Workshop
	Adult Activity

Wanted - Intergovernmental Cooperation

by Karen Fiedler, Solid Waste Coordinator

The current tight budget climate has raised public expectations for local governments to cooperate in order to increase efficiency and decrease service costs. DNR recycling grants that encourage intergovernmental cooperation may also help make this happen locally, and are included in the draft 2004 County budget.

Under the budget initiative, the 12 municipalities that are not currently participating in the County recycling program are invited to bring their recyclable materials to the county-owned Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) for processing - at actual costs. Since net costs for recycling at the MRF over the last three years has averaged less than \$6 per ton, this could translate to a significant savings for these communities.

As additional incentive, the new intergovernmental cooperation will be rewarded by DNR Recycling Efficiency Incentive (REI) grants. Any newly participating municipality would retain their "Responsible Unit" status with the DNR, including all associated responsibilities and recycling grants (plus the new REI grant). They would sign a cooperative agreement with the County to bring their recyclables and/or their yard wastes to the County facilities.

The 25 communities currently participating in the County MRF will also benefit from the initiative. Fixed operating costs will be spread out over a larger funding base, reducing the costs for everyone and helping ensure that the current partners continue to receive an annual dividend check from the County - as they have for the past three years. Since actual costs are used for the new communities, the current MRF partners take on no additional risk in the arrangement. REI grants will be used to fund the new County yard waste composting operation in the Town of Genesee allowing free disposal of yard wastes for all municipalities in the county, while the grant funds last.

Municipalities interested in more information about this program can contact Karen Fiedler at 262-896-8014.

**FAMILY OPEN HOUSE**

at the Waukesha County Materials Recycling Facility (MRF)

220 S. Prairie Avenue, Waukesha

Saturday, November 15, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

*Celebrate America Recycles Day*

All ages are welcome to tour the facility and see where your recyclables go after they leave the curb



Register to win a prize



See products made of recycled materials



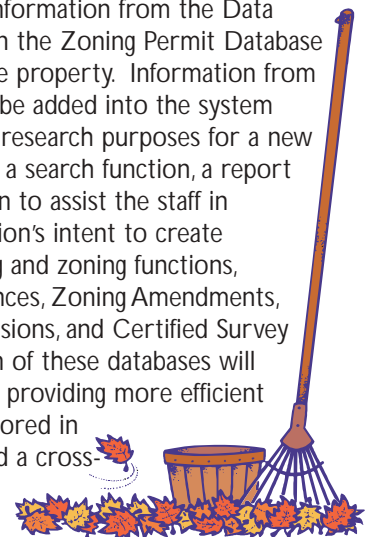
Check out the Wise Tree of Recycling, the History of trash puzzle and the new Mural

DIRECTIONS: Prairie Ave. runs north/south between West St. Paul and Sunset. The MRF is the 4th building on the right south of the intersection of College Ave. & Prairie, just north of Old Tavern Cheese and across the street from the Saratoga Ball Fields.

Planning And Zoning Division Unveils Zoning Permit Database

by: Sandy Scherer, Senior Planner

In April of this year, after many months of working with Information Systems, the Planning and Zoning Division unveiled a Zoning Permit Database. This database is accessed through the Waukesha County Intranet and will be used internally by the Planning and Zoning Division staff to manage zoning permit applications and to produce permits and other correspondence related to the zoning permit process. The database is also linked to the Register of Deeds Data Warehouse information, which provides the name and address of the property owner, as well as the legal description of the property. When a new application file is created, the information from the Data Warehouse is automatically entered in the Zoning Permit Database by typing in the tax key number of the property. Information from previously issued Zoning Permits will be added into the system when those permits are accessed for research purposes for a new application file. The database also has a search function, a report generation function, and a help section to assist the staff in managing the database. It is the Division's intent to create databases for all of the major planning and zoning functions, which include Conditional Uses, Variances, Zoning Amendments, Violations, Plans of Operation, Subdivisions, and Certified Survey Maps. It is our hope that the creation of these databases will allow us to better serve the public by providing more efficient access to the information currently stored in paper files in our office, as well as lend a cross-reference capability to the information.





F A L L

Resource Report

Waukesha County
 Department of Parks & Land Use
 1320 Pewaukee Road
 Waukesha, WI 53188

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New Faces – Planning and Zoning Division

Peggy Pelikan joined the Planning and Zoning Division in September, as a Land Use Specialist. She graduated in May of 2003 from UW-Whitewater with a B.S. in Geography and Urban Area Development. She is also a certified G.I.S. analyst. Peggy grew up in the City of Waukesha, where she still lives. She enjoys reading, running, camping, and biking.



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